

National Transportation Safety Board
Summary record of interview with:
Mr. Horita, Principal of
Mr. Takahama, Chief, Education Board, Ehime Prefecture

February 13, 2001, PM
Ocean Resort Hotel, Waikiki

Description of school. 200 students in a 3 year vocational program. Engineering, fisheries, sailing (deck), fishing products and cultural sea products such as pearls.

The school uses three vessels:
Ehime Maru - Engineering and fisheries
Isurushima Maru - First class license and engineering
Itashima Maru - Near Ocean Fisheries

Ehime Maru. 3 sailings per year. Each voyage is for about 74 days. Mr. Horita indicated that this is the minimum time underway each year necessary to qualify for a license. The vessel is capable of carrying 20 crew, 2 teachers and 45 students. The vessel has a Third Class Fishing vessel registration for international voyages.

Neither the school or Prefecture perform safety inspection s on the vessels (as related to the interviewers by Mr. Horita and Mr. Takahama. They stated that the national government performed safety inspections, visiting the Ehime after each voyage. The school/Prefecture does advise on vessel design and modifications. The Prefecture funds the vessel's construction and operation and receives the income from fishing operations.

The school is located in Uwajima City, Ehime Prefecture. The vessels are docked in Misaki, Japan, about 500 miles from the school.